



J. Wolf. del. J. Smit. lith

PTEROMYS TEPHROMELAS

M. & N. Hanhart. imp



Wolf del. J. Smit. lith

SCIUROPTERUS PULVERULENTUS.

M. & N. H. Hart imp

and kidney-shaped and very muscular; both were empty, that of the male containing only a rough calcareous pebble about half an inch wide. The male's windpipe is shaped like that of *F. marila*, figured in Yarrell, but is shorter, broader, and more roundish in its outline.

I have preserved the specimen for future comparison.

The trachea of the female is much narrower than that of the male, and has narrower rings; the bronchi at the crutch separate, and meet again to leave a hole between.

4. Descriptions of three new Species of Flying Squirrels in the Collection of the British Museum. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received February 26, 1873.]

(Plates XXXVII., XXXVIII.)

PTEROMYS TEPHROMELAS. (Plate XXXVII.)

All the upper parts and the tail black; *under-fur ash-coloured*; on parts where the long black hairs have been rubbed off, as between the shoulders, behind the ears, on the forehead, and sometimes on the tail, the grey of the under-fur is more conspicuous. Lower parts of the body and parachute very sparsely covered with greyish-brown hair, except along the median line of the chest and abdomen.

Cheeks without bristles; ears of moderate size; incisors of an adult female white. Length of the body from the nose to the vent 10 inches; of the tail 11 inches; of the carpal spur 2 inches.

An adult female, from Pinang, has been presented by his Grace the Duke of Argyll to the British Museum. A second younger female has been obtained in a collection from Malacca together with the species of *Sciuropterus* described hereafter.

PTEROMYS PHÆOMELAS.

All the upper parts and the tail brownish black, on the neck and middle of the back deep black; *under-fur dark chestnut-brown*. The longer hairs on the hinder half of the back and on the sides with greyish-white tips. Lower parts of the body and parachute sparsely covered with woolly chestnut-brown hair, more densely along the middle of the chest and abdomen and on the outer half of the parachute.

Cheeks without bristles; ears of moderate size; incisors of an adult female yellow. Length of the body from the nose to the vent 13 inches; of the tail $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of the carpal spur $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

There is only one specimen, an adult female, from Borneo in the British Museum. It is allied to the preceding species, but conspicuously larger, and distinguished by its brown under-fur.

SCIUROPTERUS PULVERULENTUS. (Plate XXXVIII.)

Upper parts of the body and parachute brownish black, powdered

with white, the hairs of the body being greyish for two thirds of their length, the terminal third being brownish black with a white tip. Fur much less thick than in *Sc. alboniger*. Margins of the parachute with a very narrow and inconspicuous yellowish-white edge. Paws and spur light brownish, with many yellowish hairs. Lower parts rather densely covered with hair (especially the body and limbs), yellowish white; scrotum and præanal region orange-coloured. Lower side of the parachute light greyish brown. Tail bushy, constricted near the base, brownish grey, darker along the upper and lower median lines, many of the hairs being black near the tip.

Cheeks without bristles; ears short; incisors of adult males pale yellow. Length of the body from the nose to the vent 10 inches; of the tail 9 inches; of the carpal spur 2 inches 1 line.

I have seen two examples of this species, both adult males, the tail of one being a little more bushy and darker than that of the other. One is from Pinang, and has been presented by his Grace the Duke of Argyll; the other, from Malacca, has been purchased.

5. On the *Falco arcticus* of Holböll, with Remarks on the changes of Plumage in some other Accipitrine Birds. BY R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Senior Assistant, Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Received March 4, 1873.]

(Plate XXXIX.)

The late Governor Holböll, when in Greenland, paid evident attention to the two Jer Falcons found in that country, and recognized two distinct species, though he failed to assign to them thoroughly trenchant characters; hence the difficulty in the recognition of his *Falco arcticus*. In a paper published on the subject in the 'Zeitschrift für die gesammten Naturwissenschaften' (vol. iii. 1854, p. 425), he calls these two birds *Falco islandicus candicans*, Schlegel, and *F. arcticus*, Holböll. He draws up the characters of these two birds not on the differences of colour, but upon certain variations in the proportions of the tarsus and middle toe, &c., and in the shape of the tail. These characters, if substantiated, would have relegated the two Greenland Jer Falcons to different genera, a consummation which would have much simplified the matter; but unfortunately no one was ever able to ratify them, and the confusion became worse confounded. We possess in the Museum several birds collected in Greenland by Holböll, and among them a noble series of the true Greenland Jer Falcon (*Falco candicans*). On the stands of some of these the late Mr. Gray has recorded (doubtless from Holböll's own tickets) that they are the *F. arcticus* of Holböll, from which it would appear that his species consisted partly of the fresh-moulted examples of *F. candicans* (the so-called "dark race"), and partly of the "light variety" of the Iceland Falcon found in Greenland. No one, there-